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Northern Region News



Issue #11

September 26, 1989

Kootenai National Forest

The Fish Incident

by Dellora Gauger, Fish Incident Information Officer, Fortine Ranger District

The Incident Command System (ICS) is used for a variety of emergency situations, from wildfire to oil spills. This past July, Fortine Ranger District put it into operation in a slightly different way.

Incident Commander Bill Widrig and his team dispatched six 6-person crews to two separate locations, one on upper Fortine Creek and the other on Cliff Creek. The assignment for the day was to build six fish structures.

ICS was the logical way to get the job accomplished with good direction and a minimal amount of confusion. An Incident Action Plan was prepared; positions such as Supply Unit Leader, Safety Officer, Operations Chief, Plans Chief were all filled.



*Crew on the Fish Incident at Upper Fortine Creek: from left, Marvin Courville, Janis Newman, Chris Allard, Dellora Gauger, Tom Puchlerz and Eric Casazza.
Photo by Ralph Gelderman.*

The two streams were chosen because of their potential as good over-wintering sites for the fish. They needed deep pools to make them fully effective. At each location a tree was felled at a right angle to the stream flow. Then the crews moved in, notching the logs, placing filter cloth upstream and covering it with rock, and anchoring the log to the bank to prevent it from washing out. When spring runoff occurs, a deep pool will form on the downflow side of the log.

At the close of the day, all crews and overhead returned to "camp" (the District office) and a debriefing was held. The consensus was that it was a very productive day, accident free and a good way to get a job done!

Haskell Indian Junior College - An Opportunity For Each of Us

by Deanna Riebe, Editor

College is a privilege many of us take for granted in our country, and financial aid opportunities are available for nearly anyone who wants to put forth the effort. But college education for American Indians surfaces a special problem and need unique to their culture.

Indians, particularly those who have been raised on reservations, have an especially strong family bond — far greater than most Americans, including other minorities in our country. This bond often outweighs other values, including higher education. Even Indians who have succeeded in taking the step to move away from home and family to gain their college education, often return home, whether or not they have a job in their field of study.

Arlen Roll, assistant director for personnel management in the Regional Office, worked for several years, trying many different avenues to help recruit Indians into colleges to prepare them for resource management jobs with the Forest Service. These efforts often failed because of the high family commitment, which made leaving home difficult, and because of a lack of academic preparation in reservation schools.

Then, in 1987, Arlen began working with Haskell Indian Junior College in Lawrence, Kansas. This proved to be an answer to the Region's problems. Haskell is a two-year, all Indian institution, and the only national American Indian college in the country. Haskell offers Indian students a cultural environment familiar to them. There, students can more easily make the transition from the close-knit family home and reservation to a four-year college. Students from Haskell have a better chance of graduating. There are courses available to bring students who have come from academically deficient schools on reservations to the level of mainstream high-school graduates. The dropout rate at Haskell is only 15 percent as opposed to 85 percent for Indians in regular four-year colleges.

Arlen worked with Dr. Gail Sloan, placement director at Haskell College, to set up a pre-natural resources program. It caught on among Haskell's 800 students (which represent more than 100 tribes from 32 states). In 1988, 30 students were placed in summer jobs with the Forest Service, and in 1989 there were 60 placements. Dr. Sloan said "The program has been phenomenally successful because we're hitting an area students are interested in and have a tie to." Haskell officials hope some of the students who complete the program will also go on to manage the lands of their tribes.

Arlen sees this as a desirable end result since one of our agency's State & Private Forestry objectives is to increase the production of goods and services from private lands. He said "If we can improve the quality of resource management on this nation's 56 million acres of reservation lands, we can contribute significantly toward meeting this objective."

The Forest Service is trying to provide summer employment

opportunities for those students who successfully complete the Forest Service natural resource course and gain the faculty's recommendation. This gives students a hands-on opportunity to learn what resource management is all about. Co-op Ed vacancy announcements are provided to those second-year students enrolled in the natural resource program, who have successfully completed a period of work and are interested in pursuing a four-year college program. Those selected will then transfer to



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Arlen Roll

a four-year college and have the opportunity to eventually come to work for the Forest Service through provisions of the Co-op Ed program. Another aid for the Co-op Ed students is a tuition assistance program, available to those students with the greatest need.

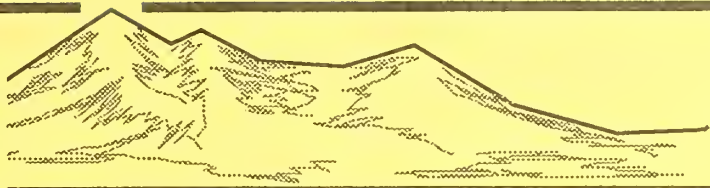
Arlen's work didn't end with the development of the program. He arranged for Haskell's faculty to come to the Region each summer to recruit at the predominately Indian reservation schools. He assisted in developing agreements with local major colleges and Haskell, where 50-75 credits will be given by local colleges toward forestry, civil engineering, etc., for work completed at Haskell. Now Haskell has about 25 agreements with colleges and universities throughout the country.

As chairman of the Haskell Natural Resources Advisory Board, Arlen has worked out an agreement where the Forest Service and the Bureau of Indian Affairs provide professional staff to conduct the resource classes at Haskell. He also arranged for a Data General computer system at Haskell, which links the school with all Forest Service offices.

Arlen said, "I believe we, as an agency, have a social responsibility to help minorities. We are trying to build a program here which serves as a model for a nation-wide American Indian colleges and universities program. The Chief has accepted the concept and is moving ahead with the establishment of this national program."

"It's rewarding to me to have been a part of the program," Roll continued. "The American Indian is the forgotten minority in this nation. Each of us has a responsibility to these people, and can help by offering the Indian students understanding and mentoring."

Arlen was invited to take part in Haskell's graduation ceremonies last spring, and was awarded a special placque in appreciation for his efforts there. He also received the Regional Forester's Civil Rights Award, and a USDA Superior Service Award for his work.



The Leading Edge

by John Mumma,
Regional Forester

"The Way It's Always Been Done"

In travelling around the Region, I often hear comments about our own Forest Service Manual hindering our ability to get the job done. Even though we've made a big effort in the past three years to update and revise the manual, we apparently are not done yet.

In 1985, the Region identified over 350 regional supplements to be deleted from the manual. About 95% of them have been removed. Another 317 were identified to be updated; 75% of those have been revised. But still I hear that the manual stands in the way.

One of the items in the Chief's new "6-point working agenda" is to have a Forest Service culture that is innovative, creative and people-oriented. He talked about tapping into the strength of our people, and providing our people with the options, flexibility and freedom to make things work successfully.

If manual supplements need to be changed, I would like to see you, as an employee, feel the freedom to do something about it. If you know of supplements that affect our ability to accomplish our jobs in the most efficient manner, we need your input. You can send your comments to Jim Reid, Management Systems Director in the Regional Office. Although this input can be received at any time, we would appreciate having your comments by November 15, 1989. A sunset date of October 1, 1990, has been set. On this

date, any Regional supplement that has not been updated or approved for continuation, based on a review, will be dropped from the directive system!

There is another manual we all go by. It's an unwritten manual that's known as "the way it's always been done." This manual needs revision too. Because we've always done something one way in the past, doesn't mean it's the best way. Take a look

at your job and others around you. You may see ways to improve the process and very likely changes can be made right on your Forest or District without Regional Office involvement. I'd like you to feel the freedom to put your creativeness and innovativeness to work and come up with better, more efficient and effective ways to do things. You may come up with some good ideas for pilot projects.

By taking a good look at our manuals, written and unwritten, each of you can take part in streamlining our operation. This will, in turn, leave more time for the critical work that needs to be done.

I sincerely appreciate your help, and encourage you to unleash your creativeness in this endeavor!



Helena National Forest

Native American Stand Exam Training

With Forest Supervisor Ernie Nunn's support, Lincoln Ranger District put together a two-year stand exam (forest inventory) training program to prepare Native Americans for work as independent contractors.

Lynn Bennett, silviculturist, put the program together with help from Donna Hawkins and Laura Burns, forestry technicians. In addition to working for Forest Service support of the program, Lynn worked with the Blackfeet Tribe and the on-the-job training program for their support.

The participants, interviewed and selected at the beginning of last year, are Alvin Grant and Ron Falcon, from an on-the-job training program, and Denise Grant, a Tribal employee.

They were trained in the skills necessary to be competent in performing timber stand examination: aerial photo interpretation, map and compass, tree measurements, habitat typing, Region One stand exam procedures, reforestation surveys, sampling design,

wildlife awareness, and introduction to 8-A contracting.

The participants completed the training program in mid-August of this year and are now the successful bidders on three Forest Service timber stand exams. This program has had 100 percent success, and the Forest hopes to continue it in 1990. The three participants plan to train others from the Tribe to help them. They are also currently looking for contracts for the field season of 1990.

The Region will benefit by having more qualified contractors for Forest Service contracts, and the Tribe has found a valuable source of employment. In addition to being a meaningful source of employment, the Forest Service has assisted the Tribe in gaining additional knowledge and skills which are necessary to meet the challenges of natural resource management on tribal lands. For more information on this program, contact Lynn Bennett, Native American Program Co-chairman, Helena National Forest, (406) 362-4265.



This sign telling the story of Ninemile Remount Depot greets visitors as they enter Ninemile Ranger Station.

The unique thing about Ninemile Ranger Station is that one can observe the operation of a modern-day Ranger Station, and at the same time get a glimpse of how the historic Ninemile Remount Depot operated in the past.

Exhibits in the Station's new visitor center tell the story of the Ninemile Remount Depot. For 23 years the Station supplied packers and packtrains for fire-fighting and backcountry work in the vast roadless areas of the Northern Rockies. And although in 1953 airplanes, smokejumpers and an expanding road network led to the closure of the Ninemile Remount Depot, many of the traditions and activities endure today. Two hundred horses and mules still winter there, and the Station continues to develop and teach packing expertise and traditional skills needed for wilderness work.

Listed on the National Register of Historic Places, the Ranger Station looks much like it did in the 1930's when the Civilian Conservation Corps constructed its Cape Cod-



style buildings.

A self-guided tour takes one to the saddle shop, where saddles and bridles are still repaired, a blacksmith shop where horses and mules are still shod, and to the corrals and barn.

A grand opening was held at the new visitor center August 31, and is scheduled to be open May 1 to September 30 each year. The self-guided tour will remain open throughout the year.

Johnny Christensen, former packer for Ninemile Ranger Station, and now a volunteer for the Regional Mule String, demonstrates the art of shaping horseshoes during the Open House.

New Visitor Center Opens at Ninemile Ranger Station

by Deanna Riebe, Editor



Three important visitors to Ninemile's Open House were, left to right: Irv Puphal, Ninemile District's first ranger (1935 to 1938); Cap Evans, Remount Depot superintendent from 1935 to 1939; and Marion Duncan, ranch foreman from 1929 to 1960. Photos by Deanna Riebe.



Greeting visitors at Ninemile's new visitor center are Public Affairs Trainee Marcy Rehfeld (at counter) and Information Receptionist Barbara Coleman (far right).



Ninemile Packer Cal Samsel treats his mule to a little feed before using him for a packing demonstration.

Beaverhead National Forest

A New Airport, Built With Cooperation and Volunteer Help

*by Swede Troedsson, Forest Aviation Officer,
and Jack de Golia, Public Affairs Officer*

Wise River, Montana, now has an airport. It's the result of what the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) described as "remarkable" cooperation between a variety of persons and agencies.

Those involved included Wise River rancher Don Jones, who leased 45 acres of pastureland to Beaverhead County; the Anacosta Job Corps; Beaverhead and Deerlodge NFs; Butte District of the Bureau of Land Management (BLM); the Montana Aeronautics Division; the FAA; Montana Highway Department, and Beaverhead County.

It took eight years of discussion and planning. Two Forest Service retirees helped with the project — former District Ranger Ron Primozić, himself an aviator, and retired Forest Engineer Rick Hockley.

The Job Corps donated to the construction of the airport by conducting a heavy-equipment training program. Enrollees moved over 48,000 cubic yards of fill from a nearby BLM pit site. From the Deerlodge NF came the services of archeologist Barb Beck, now ranger on Townsend District. Beaverhead NF engineers, including Hockley and Butch Selway, and air officer Swede Troedsson donated their time.

The Montana Aeronautics Division (MAD) and the FAA provided airport design expertise, with a free windsock pole and windsock from MAD thrown in for good measure. Yellow paint and highway-delineator posts and reflectors were donated by the Montana Highway Dept.

Beaverhead County provided legal expertise and covered costs of fencing, seeding and fertilizing, and the county road crew donated labor in fabricating tie-down anchors.

Swede Troedsson, Beaverhead Forest aviation officer, who promoted and coordinated the project, said the airport fills a void in the County airport system. Up to now, Wise River District personnel had to drive for an hour to Butte to board aircraft or pick up employees returning from fire assignments. The new airport will also serve the needs of local outfitters, road construction and mining projects, summer-home owners, and can serve as a base for crop dusters. The airport will let Wise River District make better use of aircraft for finding fires and for other District activities.

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Bitterroot National Forest

Engineering Tech Killed While Surveying

Bitterroot NF engineering technician, David King, was fatally injured Wednesday, September 13, while surveying in the Combination Fire area on the Deerlodge NF.

Victor T. Buddell of Philipsburg, a former mental patient at the Montana State Hospital at Warm Springs, admitted to the murder the same day. An autopsy showed that King died of head injuries.

King was surveying with four other Forest Service employees. His body was found by survey crew members who became concerned when he didn't rejoin the work crew for lunch or respond to radio calls.

King, 46, had worked for the Forest Service since 1965. He had been temporarily assigned to the Deerlodge NF to survey property boundaries. He served 22 years in the Montana National Guard. He was buried with military honors at Darby. King is survived by his wife, Janie, and three children, Brian, 19, Stephanie, 16, and Shannon, 15.

Idaho Panhandle National Forests

Trail Dedicated to Brent Jacobson

Brent (Jake) Jacobson enjoyed the outdoors. Hiking, camping, fishing and hunting were favorite activities in the scenic northern Idaho country for Jacobson and his family. He was an expert tracker.

On August 21 Jake's friends and associates on Sandpoint District dedicated a 1.6-mile trail along the scenic Lake Pend Oreille, as a memorial to the supervisory forestry technician and law enforcement officer.

An 11-year veteran with the Forest Service, Jacobson was shot and killed January 12, 1989, near Sandpoint while working with local law enforcement officers, tracking two men wanted for robbery, attempted murder and kidnapping.

As the District's fuel management and fire specialist, Jake was the supervisor of the District firefighting crews. These crews and the District trail crew built the trail along the lake shore, from Mineral Point to Green Bay, with the goal of dedicating it to Jake. The trail builders asked to have the trail named "Jake's Trail."

"Dedicating the trail to Jake served as an inspiration to all involved," said Mary Ann Hamilton, the trail crew supervisor who planned and organized the trail building. "It was built with love and respect for an associate we admired." Other Forest Service employees volunteered and worked on the trail on their own time.

A mountain, directly across Lake Pend Oreille from Mineral Point Vista on Green Monarch Ridge, will be named "Jake's Mountain" later this year. The peak overlooks the Clark Fork River delta where he spent many days goose and duck hunting.

Forest Hosts Youth Camp

*by Dallas Emch, Forest CRAG Chair,
North Fork District*

Clearwater NF and the Nez Perce and Coeur d'Alene Tribes sponsored the second annual Idaho Intertribal Youth Camp this summer. It was held at Musselshell Work Center on Pierce Ranger District. Eighteen Native American High School students from the two tribes attended.

The Youth Camp provided Indian youth an opportunity to develop an understanding of tribal government and how it functions; become exposed to natural resource management activities, disciplines, and career opportunities; and develop leadership, communication and problem solving skills. In addition, the students participated in recreational activities and experienced different tribal cultures.

An exercise called "Mystic Mountain" was one of the primary teaching tools at the camp. Students were grouped into "mythical tribes," each with a specific social, economic, educational and financial profile. The exercise gave the students an opportunity to work with Native American professionals in natural resource management.

The camp proved to be a learning experience for everyone who attended, both students and camp organizers. Plans are to make the camp an annual event with the hopes of expanding the number of tribes and students involved.

Comments Sought on Personnel Pilot Project

by Diane Hitchings, Public Affairs, Washington Office

The U.S. Office of Personnel Management (OPM) is calling for public comments on a proposed project within the FS and Agricultural Research Service (ARS) to test several innovations in federal recruitment and hiring practices. Employees are urged to read over the proposal, which was published in the August 23 Federal Register, and send in their comments. Under the project, more than 130 randomly selected sites within the FS and ARS would participate in the five-year project to implement experimental hiring and recruitment procedures designed to strengthen management's ability to recruit new employees and respond to local needs.

A public hearing, sponsored by OPM, will be held in the Jefferson Auditorium of the WO at 10:00 a.m., October 18, to permit comment on the proposal. Efforts are being made to provide telephone link-ups to several field locations.

This innovative project has the potential to affect every employee. Written comments must be received by October 23, 1989, and should be submitted to Donna Beecher, U.S. Office of Personnel Management, 1900 E. St., N.W., Washington D.C. 20415.

A Coóperative Agreement With the Park Service

by Keith Walker, Range Conservationist, Medora District

This summer, Theodore Roosevelt National Park and Medora Ranger District entered into a unique, and as far as we know, a first of it's kind, agreement. This agreement allows Medora District to put up a display in the Park's Painted Canyon Visitor Center and provide an employee to staff it. This gives us an opportunity to show and tell what the Little Missouri National Grassland, the Custer National Forest and Region One have to offer. This visitor center, which is owned and operated by the National Park Service, is located along Interstate 94 and receives in excess of 150,000 visitors each year.

Right now the display consists of photos and captions from various Districts on the Custer NF and the Regional Office, and also maps of Region One and the Little Missouri National Grasslands. We hope to make available maps of other Districts, Forests, etc. in the future. If you would like to submit a photo and caption, contact Keith Walker at the Medora District office.

This past summer Lowell Aman, information assistant, was fielding questions for the Forest Service and helping to educate the Park's employees, as well as the visitors, about the Grasslands. At the same time he has been learning about the Park so he can answer

those questions also.

During the off-season the display will be exhibited at various fairs, expositions, etc. to continue to spread the news.

In Memoriam

Eldon A. Streich, of Whitefish, died September 13 of cancer, at the age of 47. He was a smokejumper in Missoula for 10 years.

David R. King, civil engineering technician for the Bitterroot National Forest, was killed September 13 while surveying. King had worked for the Forest Service since 1965. (See article on page 5.)

Personnel Actions

CUSTER NATIONAL FOREST

BROWN, BERNADETTE, range con, Shyenenne RD, reass Med Bow NF
DEKKER, JASON, range tech, McKenzie RD, Award

HELENA NATIONAL FOREST

CARPENTER, MARVIN JR., frstr tech, Helena RD, award
CHRISTENSEN, CHRIS, frstr tech, Helena RD, award
COOPER, BOB, frstr, Helena RD, prom Bienville RD, Mississippi
GOING, CLAYTON, frstr tech, Helena RD, award
JANIK, JOHN, frstr tech, Helena RD, award
RUCH, JAMES, frstr tech, Helena RD, award
SCHLOSSER, STEVE, frstr aid, Helena RD, award
SENN, DONALD, frstr tech, Helena RD, award

IDAHO PANHANDLE NATIONAL FORESTS

BARTLETT, JULIE, clk typ, Toiyabe NF, reass, comp clk, Avery RD
BROCKUS, GRANT, prom, frstry tech, Priest Lake RD
CROW, ILA, coop, prom, fishery biol, Avery RD
DEITER, DALE, exc appt cond, studt trainee (frstry), Bonners Ferry RD
EDGAR, RANDY, sss, prom, AO, Priest Lake RD
FINNEY, MARILYNN, prom, purch agent, Bonners Ferry
GABERT, CHARLA, info recep, Sandpoint RD, reass, info rec, Fernan RD
GUNTER, DONALD, frstr, Clearwater NF, reass, frstr, Bonners Ferry RD
HAUGEN, LORI, clk typ, prom, pers clk, SO
HOLMAN, MICHELLE, coop appt, conv to career cond appt, frstr, Priest Lake RD
KUNKEL, LESLIE, conv to career cond appt, clk typ, Avery RD
LAVERDURE, MARIE, conv car cond appt, biol aid, Coeur d'Alene Nursery
LEVI, ANN, fin asst, prom, sss, Priest Lake RD
MCPHERSON, TAMMY, clk typ, Helena NF, prom, rsrc clk, Priest Lake RD
MOTTERN, JOHN, conv career cond appt, biol aid, Coeur d'Alene Nursery
PERUSSE, DELORES, exc appt temp SCSEP, Sandpoint RD
SINCLAIR, BARBARA, conv car cond appt, biol aid, Coeur d'Alene Nursery
SPAFFORD, ROB, temp prom, civil engr, SO
STROH, SHELLEY, conv career cond appt, biol aid, Coeur d'Alene Nursery
SULLIVAN, SUSAN, conv car cond appt, biol aid, Coeur d'Alene Nursery
SUMNER, MARTHA, conv career cond appt, biol aid, Coeur d'Alene Nursery
WRIGHT, JOANN, conv career cond appt, biol aid, Coeur d'Alene Nursery

KOOTENAI NATIONAL FOREST

ADAMS, JEFF, forstr, Fortine RD, promotion forstr, R1, Nez Perce NF
ADAMS, PAMELA, Info Receipt, CSSC, promotion compr clrk/asst
BLACKBURN, JOHN, frstry tech, Libby RD, emp sugg
BREE, KAREN, comp asst, SO, AS, prom, comp spec, R2, Shoshone NF
BUNDROCK, ROBBIN, frstry tech, Libby RD, spl act
CALHOUN, CAROL, fleet asst, SO, ES, promotion
CURTISS, SHARON, suprt srvc supvr, CSSC, prom, adm offcr
DEYOUNG, LINDA, fnanci asst, CSSC, promotion suprt srvc supvr
GOSS, C. JOYCE, suprt srvc supvr, WSSC, prom, adm offcr
HAZEN, JIM, frstry tech, Libby RD, sus sup perf
KAEDING, DON, scsep, Libby RD, sus sup perf
LEFEVER, STEVEN, frst tech, Fisher River RD, prom
LUNDBERG, RENEE, forstr, R1, Lolo NF, reassign, forstr, Libby RD
MAFFEI, TOM, forstr, Three Rivers RD, reassign, forstr, Libby RD
MANZO, ELIZABETH, stud tr frstry, Fortine RD cc appt, forstr
ODOR, ANN, frstry tech, Libby RD, spl act
ORNBERG, ERIC, forstr, Cabinet RD, reass forstr, R6, Williamette NF
PERRY, PATRICIA, conv to cc, info receipt, NESS
POMEROY, BILLY, wldlf bio, Three Rivers RD, prom
SCHULTZ, GAIL, contr speclst, SO, AS, reassign, R6 Siuslaw NF
SHARP, DOROTHY, suprt srvc supvr, NSSC, prom, adm offcr
SHIRA, PATRICIA, frstry tech, Three Rivers RD reass, frstr, Idaho Panhandle NF
SKJERVEN, JOEL, forstr, Fortine RD, promotion, forstr, R6, Colville NF
SMITH, GREG, forstr, Libby RD, promotion

NEZ PERCE NATIONAL FOREST

BLANCHFIELD, LYNNE, computer asst, Selway RD, reassignment
BENSCOTER, MARVETTE, supp serv supv, Salmon River RD, promotion
CLARKE, DOUGLAS, frstr tech, Red River RD, cash award
CLARKIN, KIM, hydrol, Red River RD, cash award
DRUSCHKE, SUSAN, purch agnt, SO, promotion
ENGSTLI, GAYLE, pers clk, SO, promotion
FOWLDS, CHARLES, civ eng tech, SO, temp promotion
GREEN, DAVID, frstr tech, Salmon River RD, promotion
HAAS, FREDERICK, frstr, Red River RD, cash award
HARBAUGH, JANET, resour clk typ, Selway RD, cash award reassign
HEIKEN, WILLIAM, supv frstr, Salmon River RD, promotion
KLEMENT, LISA, clk typ, Clearwater RD, cash award
LABER, ALFRED, frstr, Salmon River RD, retirement
MCKENZIE, DARRELL, civ eng tech, SO, temp promotion
PARADISO, JAMES, frstr, Clearwater RD, reassignment
ROSSA, JEANNINE, biol tech, Red River RD, cash award
RUZICKA, THERESA, clk typ, Elk City RD, promotion
VOLLMER, KRISTINE, frstr tech, Red River RD, cash award
WERST, KURT, frstr tech, Salmon River RD, promotion

Flathead National Forest

Help From The Handicapped

by Patsy Treat, Manpower Development Specialist

Ten miles from the southern border of Swan Lake District, just off Owl Creek Loop Road is a group of disabled individuals from Flathead Industries for the Handicapped (FIFTH) working industriously on Forest Service roads. They are Dean Rollins, Joe McDonald, Elmer Anderson, Ken Cox and Robert Malatare, and they really like working for the Forest Service. Their crew leader, an employee of FIFTH, is Lyle Monen. Another crew member is Jesse Saunders, who is employed through the Summer Youth Employment Program (SYEP) through Northwest Human Resources. Jesse assists Lyle in guiding the crew members.

Bill Stine, road systems management and maintenance engineer for the District, conceived the idea of using disabled individuals to seed old road beds that will have little traffic over the next few years. Stine said seeding the road beds prevents erosion and

minimizes the amount of noxious weeds, and saw this as a good project for employment of disabled people.

In addition, FIFTH employees are cleaning campgrounds on Tally Lake and Hungry Horse Districts. According to crew leader Lyle Monen, the sense of well being and fitness that working outside brings is the payoff to the crew. Crew members are learning a lot about safety and the environment, and are building self-reliance. Few of the crew members have been as far away from home as this job takes them.

Stine said that although the program is very cost effective, his goal was to promote Flathead Industries programs. He said he was really impressed with what the organization is doing to assist the disabled and wanted to do something to help them.

Super Volunteers With a Super Assignment

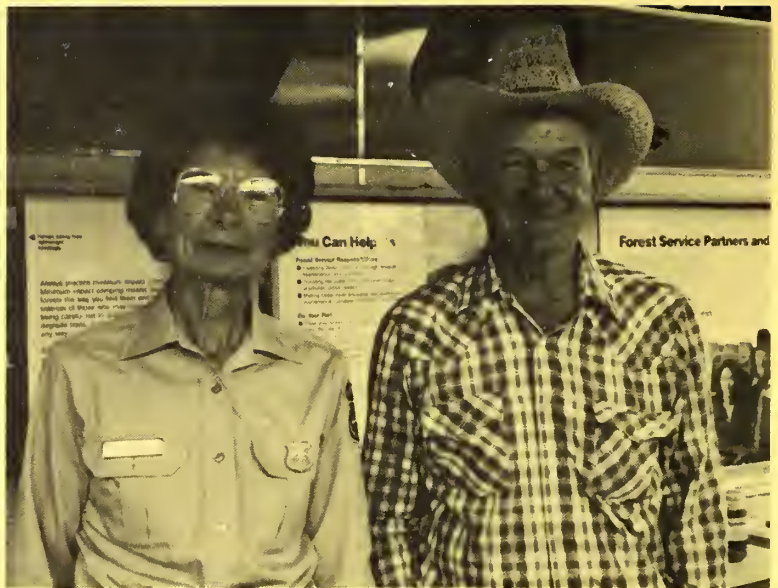
by Deanna Riebe, Editor

Vivian and Johnny Christensen have a job many of us envy. They are full-time volunteers working with the Regional Pack String from Ninemile Ranger Station. Where the pack string goes, they go. This includes travelling all over Montana and Idaho as the pack string continues its busy schedule of parades and demonstrations. And while helping with the pack string's mission, they're enjoying seeing the country.

Johnny, who was a packer for 19 years for Ninemile Ranger Station, helps with the mules, and Vivian manages the "light-on-the-land" camping and packing display that is set up at each appearance next to the mule's trailer. She said she really enjoys meeting and greeting the public and being the host of the display.

"Vivian is a real peach," said Bob Hoverson, pack string manager. "Her personality and rapport with people is just great. She has the ability to communicate with people in a friendly manner as she explains the various displays, and really helps in fulfilling the public awareness mission of the pack string."

"Johnny," Hoverson continued, "with his past experience as a packer, is a tremendous asset." He said, "The two of them were able to jump right in and help when they were needed, without any coaching."



Volunteers Vivian and Johnny Christensen.

The couple volunteered at Lochsa Historical Ranger Station for a few weeks each summer, for the past seven years, until becoming full-time volunteers with the pack string.

Also riding with the pack string, as the main packer, is Cal Samsel, who has 10 years Forest Service packing experience. Two other Forest Service packers, now retired, Charlie Harrington and Don Parrin, travel with the string occasionally.

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